GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3450
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013
RECONSTITUTION OF CPCB AND SPCBS
Choudhary Shri Nikhil Kumar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pollution level of rivers has increased due to flow of untreated poisonous chemicals in rivers and excessive mining activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to reconstitute Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards functioning in various States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b) Yes sir, the major reason of pollution of rivers is the disposal of partially treated or untreated domestic waste water from the cities and towns located on the banks of the rivers. The industrial effluents after their treatment also find way into the rivers through sewage carrying drains. The water quality of rivers is getting affected adversely due to bacteriological contamination. The Central Pollution Control Board is monitoring the water quality of rivers in collaboration with State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees. Based on such studies, 150 polluted river stretches have been identified. In order to check pollution of river water on account of mining activities, lifting of boulders by the stone crushers and other similar mining activities in the rivers are prohibited.

(c) & (d) The Government has carried out a review of the functioning of Central Pollution Control Board through a study entrusted to the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, in 2010. The study has recommended for strengthening of CPCB in-terms of personnel, laboratories up-gradations and information / database management. However, there is no proposal for reconstitution of CPCB. Since the State Governments under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981 are empowered to look into the functioning of State Pollution Control Boards, the question of the review of the functioning of the State Pollution Control Boards by the Central Government does not arise.